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grandeur and sublimity, *Israel in Egypt* had not enjoyed its due share of popularity, and was but rarely produced even in Handel's lifetime. But at the Crystal Palace the effect produced on the vast multitude assembled was unparalleled, and it will henceforth hold its proper place by the side of the *Messiah*, its worthiest companion. The great experiment having been tried, it is now seen that there was no ground for the fears of those who doubted the possibility of securing comfort to so many visitors; and who feared that the sound would be so overpowering that the listeners would not be able to bear it. But some competent judges think that the interval between this time and the year 1859 should be taken advantage of for the purpose of producing the concentration of sound within special limits, and its more equal diffusion amongst the various localities in which the audience are established. Whatever could be done under the circumstances was done by the zeal and perseverance of the directors, but between this and 1859 there is plenty of time to devise and complete such improvements as are indispensable to unqualified success. The committee of the Sacred Harmonic Society, we are informed, have already in contemplation a plan to keep the enormous body of amateurs, provincial and metropolitan, who officiated as chorus, at regular and constant practice in the interval. The other duties will devolve chiefly upon the directors of the Crystal Palace, who have already shown that many thousands of persons can be accommodated with ease and comfort. On this head doubts and fears are wholly set at rest, and the exclusive question now becomes one of providing means by which the musical effect shall be more generally distributed. The year 1859 is not only interesting as the centenary of Handel's death, but as the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Haydn, and the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Mendelssohn.

#### SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, EXETER HALL.

THE following circular has been issued by the Committee:—

There being good reason for believing that an opinion prevails among the large body of efficient Choralists who formed the London division of the Choir at the Great Handel Festival, that a few meetings in the year, somewhat similar in character to the great Choral Rehearsals then held at Exeter Hall, would afford considerable individual gratification, and, while tending to produce improved choral effects, would preserve intact a body of vocalists who would be of the highest value in the great celebration of 1859, it is with much satisfaction the Committee are enabled to state, that steps have been taken for carrying the desired object into effect.

Arrangements have therefore been made for a series of *Choral Rehearsals* for voices only, on an extended scale (comprising from 1200 to 1500 Vocalists), to be held in the LARGE HALL, EXETER HALL, on the THIRD FRIDAY in each month, from November until April inclusive.

It is not intended to confine the music to be rehearsed on these occasions to the Sacred Works usually performed by the Society, but to afford variety by the selection of Church and other Part-Music.

The Committee have the pleasure to announce that Mr. Costa has kindly undertaken to afford the aid of his invaluable experience, by conducting these Meetings.

The only Visitors who can be permitted to attend to witness the Meetings will be the Subscribers to the Sacred Harmonic Society.

As the main object of these Rehearsals is to attain a high degree of combined choral perfection, it is no less a point of importance that those engaging in them should, by previous private study and practice, make themselves well acquainted with the music to be rehearsed; so that, a general clear and distinct syllabic and tonal effect being thus previously attained, undivided attention may be given to the instructions of the Conductor.

With this object, the Committee have entered into

arrangements with Mr. Novello, of 69, Dean Street, Soho, that, on production of the card of admission, the music of the selections, printed for the Society's use, may be had one clear week before the time of meeting, at the small charge of threepence per sheet of four pages.

THOMAS BREWER, Hon. Sec.  
6, Exeter Hall, 20th October, 1857.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*This Journal is published on the 1st of every month.*

*The late hour at which Advertisements reach us, interferes much with their proper classification.*

*All communications must be authenticated by the proper name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.*

*Colored Envelopes are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.*

*We would request those who send us country newspapers, wishing us to read particular paragraphs, to mark the passage, by cutting a slit in the paper near it.*

*We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.*

#### Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

ADELAIDE.—The North Adelaide Choral Society's concert of sacred music was given on the 31st of July, at White's Assembly Rooms. His Excellency and Lady Macdonnell were present, and there was a large and respectable audience. Several of the standard anthems were ably performed, and various solo pieces, including "The Infant's Prayer," by V. Novello, which was effectively sung by Miss Petman.

BARNARD CASTLE.—The Sacred Harmonic Society gave the first monthly rehearsal to their honorary members on Friday, October 30th. The programme comprised a selection of choruses from the *Messiah*. The quality of the voices is good, and of great power. Mr. Raper accompanied the choruses on a fine-toned harmonium. Mr. Brandon conducted with much ability.

BIRMINGHAM.—The Festival Choral Society gave their first concert this season in the Town Hall, on Thursday, September 24th. The oratorio was Haydn's *Creation*. The proceeds of the performance are destined for the hospitals and other charitable institutions. The principal singers were Mrs. Sunderland, Mr. Perring, of Manchester, and Mr. Lambert, of York. The band and chorus consisted of 250 performers, under the direction of Mr. Stockley. Mr. Stimpson presided at the organ.

BELFAST.—The Belfast Classical Harmonist Society held their first concert of the season on Monday evening, the 12th ult. Madame Rudersdorff, Madame Amadei, Mr. Charles Braham, and Mr. Thomas, were the solo singers; Herr Molique, violin; Herr Randegger, pianist; and Mr. Harper, of Hillsborough, horn and trumpet. Mr. Allen was the conductor. The society deserve great praise for producing upon this occasion Handel's *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*. No fault could be found with the manner in which the performance was rendered, but the work was received with coldness, and it was evident that the audience would have preferred some less weighty and more popular music, with which they might have had a previous acquaintance. The second part of the concert embraced a miscellaneous selection, including two pieces composed by the conductor.

BOLTON.—A new organ was opened at the Wesleyan Chapel in this town, on the 2nd of October. A selection of music was performed by Mr. J. Aspin; in the course